

REMARKS

A. RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Claims 1-8 and 17 are elected for prosecution in this application without traverse. Applicants hereby cancel claims 9-16, but reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to these claims in the future.

B. DELETION OF INVENTORS

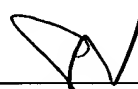
Cancellation of claims 9-16 has caused a change in inventorship. Specifically, only Hideaki KOMAKI and Kunio MATSUI are inventors of remaining claims 1-8 and 17. Applicants therefore respectfully request that Katsumi TAKAHASHI be deleted as an inventor.

The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for applicants under 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(b).

Respectfully submitted,

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